

Hearing- Public Act 14  
May 9, 2006  
Speaking for Wetland Watch

- I have read that a proposed clean-up of Lake Michigan will cost taxpayers billions of dollars and Lake Huron may not be far behind. The destruction of vegetation along the shorelines only adds to the problems of protection of the health of the Great Lakes. This cost for clean-up will be shared by all of us and for the benefit of a few shoreline home-owners we should not allow these costs to increase.
- The aquatic vegetation along the shorelines has a profound affect on the water quality of our Great Lakes. This vegetation not only absorbs nutrients from lawn and farming fertilizers and toxic chemicals, but also provides a healthy environment for fish and water-fowl.
- Removal of coastal vegetation has a negative affect on our states economy in the form of reduced revenue from the sport-fishing and water-fowl industry.
- There may be long term effects from extended aquatic vegetation removal due to increased beach erosion and possible formation of sand dunes. Along Lake Michigan where there is no natural shore-line vegetation we have witnessed houses which were initially built far back from the shore line slip into the lake due to sand erosion. Would the home owners who desire aquatic vegetation removal prefer a sand dune in place of a lawn. We must consider the long term affect which may be irreversible.
- We believe there must be a change in our views of our natural environment. Either through gods creation or through evolution we were provided with a system of ecological balance. All of us are custodians of what nature has provided and we must learn to appreciate our natural surroundings. We have begun to see a change locally. Through the adoption of a Wetland Ordinance builders are now constructing houses around wetlands instead of filling them in and finding home buyers enjoy the natural setting and wildlife that it provides.
- We believe that the owners of beachfront property should realize that rising and falling of lake levels create the condition for natural vegetation and accept this as a fact of property ownership. Although ownership of the land adjoining a body of public water entitles the owner to certain riparian rights, these rights do not include acts that negatively others and the surrounding ecosystem.

Wetland Watch organization believes that it is the duty of the DEQ and our legislators to protect these natural resources and hold them in trust for future

generations. We agree with the DEQ recommendations that Public Act 14 be allowed to sunset on June 5, 2006